



# Comprehensive Homeless Center

It is estimated that one-third of America's homeless are veterans. Until 1989, homeless veterans in the Dallas/Fort Worth area had few places to seek assistance. Fortunately, VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) and community agencies responded to the problem, and there is now an array of treatment and rehabilitation programs to address the unique needs of homeless veterans.

In 1990, Dallas VA Medical Center introduced the first Comprehensive Homeless Center (CHC) in VA, which helps mentally and physically ill homeless veterans rejoin the community as productive citizens.

## Veterans Industries/Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)

The CWT program at VANTHCS is the largest in VHA. This therapeutic work program provides vocational re-training in a compensated work environment, whereby homeless veterans prepare to re-enter the workforce while earning income. The program actively solicits business from outside companies and organizations.

While these services are performed at a VA-owned facility, the Center's Transitional Work Experience program places veterans at industrial locations and functions as a temporary employment service. In FY 05, CWT paid approximately \$2.1 million to veterans enrolled in the program.

## Day Resource Veterans Rehabilitation Program

This program combines CWT with substance abuse treatment and is located at the City of Dallas Day Resource Center in downtown Dallas.

## Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program

Health Care for Homeless Veterans is an outreach program emphasizing assistance for mentally ill and chemically addicted homeless veterans. Another component is the Homeless Women Veterans Program. Veteran benefits counseling is also available. Health Care for Homeless Veterans is available in both Dallas and Fort Worth.

## Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation

The Dallas VAMC has a comprehensive inpatient assessment, treatment and rehabilitation program for homeless veterans who wish to improve their lives. The program lasts 4-5 months and helps veterans gain skills and knowledge needed to become independent and support themselves. Support will be given for job search and re-employment as needed.

## Transitional Housing Programs

The Grant and Per Diem Program is a VA funded program located at the Salvation Army in Dallas, Texas. The purpose of this program is to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans with the goal of achieving greater self-determination, developing residential stability and increasing income potential. There are 52 beds assigned to this program.

Transitional Residences (TR) are four houses owned by the VA, located in nice nearby neighborhoods, where selected veterans participating in the Compensated Work Therapy Program pay a monthly housing fee. They are near bus lines and major shopping centers. TR's offer private or semi-private bedrooms, living rooms, kitchens, laundry and yards for veteran's use. They are large, nice houses in excellent repair, comfortable to live in and fitting in with the area. Case management and support are provided, which are excellent tools for a veteran's recovery program. The TR Program can assist in a successful transition to independent, successful community living. This program is available in Dallas and Bonham.



# Comprehensive Homeless Center (cont.)

## Permanent Housing Programs

The Housing Crisis Center Veterans Housing Partnership is a joint venture between HCC, VA and Sunrise Village Apartment. This partnership provides 50 units of permanent housing for homeless veterans and their families with on-site case management services. To be eligible for this program, veterans must meet HUD criteria's of chronic homelessness.

Shelter Plus Care Housing Program – S plus C is a partnership between the VA and the City of Dallas, Environmental and Health Services. This program is designed to provide long-term case management and housing to veterans with substance abuse and/or mental illness disorders.

## Veterans Affairs/Social Security Program

This program is designed to expedite Social Security and Supplemental Security Disability claims for homeless veterans and to ensure the veteran's needs for additional treatment services are met.

## Fort Worth Homeless Veterans Program

The FWHVP is a psychosocial rehabilitation program which is based on "Recovery". Veterans who are homeless with significant barriers to employment, housing and have a serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder are offered the opportunity to obtain a steady income (either disability income or competitive employment) and stable housing. Veterans immediately start work in the on-site Compensated Work Therapy Program (CWT) where Vocational and Supportive Employment services are provided.

Mental Health, Physical and Substance Use Disorders are addressed on site. With a verified commitment to address the issues that led to his/her current situation the veteran is placed in transitional housing (Grant/Per Diem). The veteran is then eligible to begin the application process for permanent housing through the Shelter Plus Care Program. Case management will be provided as long as the veteran remains in Shelter Plus Care. Peer support is also available through the VET-TO-VET program.

For more information

Veterans in need of assistance should contact the Comprehensive Homeless Center's Outreach Team at of the following locations:

Dallas Day Resource Center  
901 S. Ervay  
Dallas, TX 75201  
214 670-0183

Presbyterian Night Shelter  
2320 Cypress St.  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
817 332-7786

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center  
1201 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bonham, TX 75418  
903 583-6244